

Accident of Guntur-Bound Nagarjuna Express

4131. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fifteen persons were killed and 14 others seriously injured when the Guntur-Bound Nagarjuna Express rammed into an APSRTC bus at Mallavaram unmanned railway crossing;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total compensation paid to the persons died and injured; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the security on the unmanned railway crossing at Mallavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. 16 bus passengers were killed and 7 injured when 7006 Inter-City Express dashed against a bus at unmanned level crossing between Bandarupalli and Nallapadu stations of Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway on 27.1.1997.

(b) and (c) The accident was inquired into by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that the accident occurred due to the failure on the part of the bus driver to take precautions as laid down under Section 131 of the Motor Vehicles Act, before negotiating the level crossing.

(d) No compensation is paid to the kin of the victims in case of unmanned level crossing accidents.

(e) The following safety arrangements exist at the unmanned level crossing in question to avert such accidents :—

(i) Warning Boards are provided on both the sides at unmanned level crossing to warn road users.

(ii) Whistle Boards are provided on both the sides alongside the track to enable the train driver to whistle, and in this case, the engine driver sounded the whistle/horn continuously while crossing the level crossing.

(iii) The level crossing is on a straight and its visibility is quite clear.

Installation of TV Transmitter/DD-2 Facilities, in Orissa

4132. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the staff for installation of TV transmitters

has not been provided on all the Doordarshan Kendra in Orissa particularly Banai Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether Sundargarh have not been provided with DD-2 facilities; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be provided with these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Installation staff is deployed for installation of projects whenever required depending on the status of the project. Since the LPT at Banai in Orissa has been completed and commissioned, there is no need for deployment of installation staff for this project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Whereas DD-2 service of Doordarshan is available throughout the country, including the entire state of Orissa, via Satellite by using an appropriate Dish Antenna System, terrestrially the service is being extended in a phased manner subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities. There is, however no approved scheme, at present, to extend this facility to Sundargarh.

[Translation]

Lackness of Passengers Amenities at Railway Station

4133. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any lackness of public conveniences at Jaunpur city, Shahganj and Azamgarh Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for providing public conveniences at the said stations; and

(c) the time by which Azamgarh Railway Station is likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As Azamgarh railway station is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled, there is no proposal for its modernisation at present.

[English]

Trains started from Various States to Bihar

4134. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new trains started from various States to Bihar since June, 1996; and